

Accessing healthcare is a daily challenge for thousands of children and adults in Iraq. After years of conflict and instability, the health sector in certain areas has almost ground to a halt. Many health facilities have been destroyed and there are often gaps in the availability of medical supplies and salary payments for healthcare workers.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) started working in Iraq in 1991. We provide medical care to vulnerable Iraqi communities, displaced families and Syrian refugees who find it difficult to access health services.

In 2017, MSF worked across Iraq in the governorates of Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Diyala, Ninawa, Kirkuk, Salaheddin, Anbar, Baghdad and Babel. MSF provided basic healthcare, nutrition programs, trauma care, emergency surgery, services for expecting and new mothers, treatment for chronic diseases, mental health support and health education activities.

In Iraq MSF has:

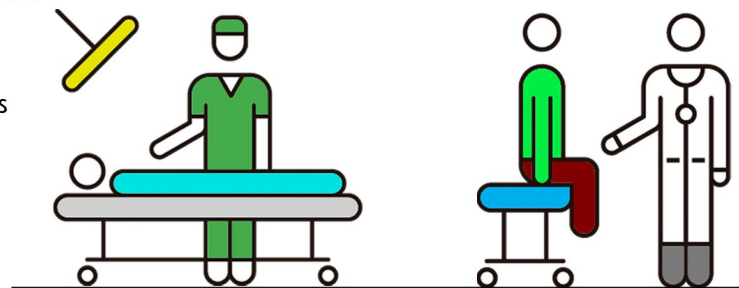
- **1,431 national staff.**
- **156 international staff.**

Budget:

- **€ 60.1 million in 2017.**
- **€ 53.4 million in 2018.**

From July to December 2017, MSF provided:

- **76,456** general medical consultations
- **28,658** emergency room consultations
- **10,999** individual mental health consultations
- **22,168** sexual and reproductive health consultations
- **4,115** births assisted
- **1,917** surgical procedures
- **15,155** Non-communicable diseases consultations



IRAQ

ACTIVITY REPORT

July to December 2017

Ninewa Governorate:

Mosul

The battle for Mosul took a staggering toll on the people of Iraq's second largest city. MSF worked relentlessly to provide life-saving trauma services for people caught in the violence. Since the conflict has finished, we have stayed on to help repair medical facilities and to provide services for children and adults returning to the city.



From July to October 2017, MSF restored four essential services at the Al Khansaa Paediatrics Teaching Hospital in East Mosul including: an emergency room; Intensive Care Unit, in-patient therapeutic feeding centre (ITFC) and set-up an ambulatory therapeutic feeding centre (ATFC). During this period, MSF admitted 2,532 patients in the emergency room and 746 children in the paediatrics ward. To guarantee free of charge access for the most critically ill paediatric cases, MSF provided complementary donations of medication, therapeutic food and basic biomedical equipment. MSF handed over the project to the Directorate of Health (DoH) on 31 October 2017.

In June 2017, MSF opened a hospital in West Mosul to provide life-saving trauma assistance to war-wounded people escaping from the final conflict areas of the Old City. When war-related trauma cases decreased, we expanded our maternity, new-born and paediatric care activities.

We are currently running the emergency room (ER) and a paediatric in-patient department with a new-born unit, and providing services for complicated and non-complicated deliveries. From July to December 2017, MSF provided 11,355 ER consultations and assisted 1,510 births.

MSF has constructed a surgical unit at the Al Salam/Al Shifa hospital in East Mosul and is supporting the hospital with waste management zones and the Emergency Room. The team is preparing to start the medical activities in collaboration with the Directorate of Health (DoH) in April 2018.

MSF closed its project in Al Taheel, East Mosul, at the end of July 2017. During the project, we received 1,340 patients in the emergency room and performed more than 350 surgeries, mostly providing follow-up care and secondary surgery for war-wounded patients.



Al Hamdaniya

MSF provided post-operative care with rehabilitation and psychosocial support in Al Hamdaniya hospital from March to September 2017. We worked in collaboration with Handicap International and ran a 43-bed facility to respond to the enormous need for post-operative care.

Hammam al-Alil

In February 2017, MSF opened a field trauma hospital in Hammam al-Alil with a 22-bed emergency room, two operating theatres, a seven-bed intensive care unit and recovery room, as well as 32 bed in-patient ward and mental health services. MSF closed the project at the end of July 2017 due to a reduced level of need for life-saving trauma assistance and a growing capacity from other medical actors.

Zummar

The MSF maternity clinic in the village of Tal Maraq, Zummar, was established in November 2016 and provides services for normal deliveries, consultations for expectant and new mothers, basic emergency obstetric cases and a small paediatric unit. MSF teams also ran mobile clinics in the surrounding villages offering general health care consultations, mental health consultation and follow-up and treatment for non-communicable diseases (NCD) patients.

Qayyarah

MSF responded on multiple fronts in Qayyarah in 2017 as the healthcare needs of displaced people and those returning to the area continued to grow. MSF's field hospital in Qayyarah ran at full capacity with an OT, ER, paediatric, nutrition and in-patient departments and mental health services. In September 2017, due to closure of the DoH hospital which was partially destroyed during the war, the admission of medical cases increased. From July to December 2017, MSF admitted 7,233 patients in the ER, performed 1,615 surgeries and treated 311 malnourished children.

In late July 2017, MSF opened an integrated nutrition and mental health project in Jeda'ah Camps 5 and 6 and Airstrip camp close to Qayyarah, which host more than 130,000 displaced people. The programme treats children under the age of five for acute malnutrition, with a special focus for babies under six months of age who are at most risk. More than 2,400 children under the age of five were admitted to the MSF ambulatory therapeutic programme in the three camps.

IDP Camps

Between July and December 2017, MSF worked in seven locations in the governorates of Ninewa and Erbil providing assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in Hasansham M2, U2 and U3, Khazer M1 and Chamakor camps and in Debaga camps 1 and 2. We provided treatment for chronic diseases (mainly diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, thyroid dysfunction and hypertension), and mental health activities, including psychological and psychiatric consultations, group therapy, psychosocial counselling and child therapy. From July to December 2017, MSF provided 5,233 NCD consultations and 7,559 mental health consultations. MSF will continue to support IDPs and host communities in 2018.

KIRKUK GOVERNORATE:

In Kirkuk governorate, MSF has been providing medical services including mental health for IDPs and people returning to the area. When people were fleeing Hawija, MSF ran mobile clinics in key areas to ensure the often health-deprived people could access medical care immediately on arrival.

In January 2017, MSF teams started activities in Daquq IDP camp and continue to provide out-patient and NCD consultations, mental health care and health promotion activities for the displaced population. In December, MSF has started activities in Hawija's Abbasi sub-district where MSF provides healthcare to the returning population in collaboration with the DoH.

Furthermore, MSF installed 5 distribution points for clean drinking water. MSF also supported the emergency rooms of the two main hospitals in Kirkuk city with donations and staff training.

DOHUK GOVERNORATE:

After more than four years, we handed over our sexual reproductive health and maternity project in Domiz Syrian refugee camp to the DoH on 30 November 2017. The project was launched in 2013 with prenatal care, antenatal care and family planning services. In 2014, the project was expanded to a full maternity unit with a 24-hour delivery room, triage and gynaecological consultations. Over the four years we provided more than 27,400 gynaecological consultations and delivered more than 3,400 babies.



SULAYMANIYAH GOVERNORATE

MSF started working in Sulaymaniyah in 2015 when a huge influx of people escaping violence in their towns and cities arrived in the area. Initially, MSF provided water and sanitation services in Arbat camp for displaced people. After assessing the healthcare needs, we extended the project to provide mental health services in Ashti camp, and we rehabilitated the Emergency Room (ER) and the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and provided staff training at the Sulaymaniyah Emergency Hospital. The project finished on 30 November 2017.



DIYALA GOVERNORATE:

MSF has been working in Diyala governorate since 2015 supporting IDPs, host communities and people who have returned to the area. In Jalawla, MSF contributed to the rehabilitation of the primary healthcare centre and hospital. In both Jalawla and Sadiya, MSF provides NCD, mental health and sexual reproductive healthcare for families returning to the area in collaboration with the DoH. Currently, 2,117 NCD patients receive treatment in both locations.

In Alwand IDP Camps 1 and 2, MSF provides mental health services, NCD consultations and sexual reproductive health services. In all project locations in Diyala, MSF conducts health educational sessions about NCD, sexual reproductive health, psychological first aid and endemic diseases. MSF's activities in Qoratu IDP camp closed at the end of November 2017. IDP numbers in the camp had decreased and the need for mental health services had reduced.



ANBAR GOVERNORATE:

MSF is running several activities in Anbar Governorate to provide much-needed medical services for IDPs and host communities impacted by the conflict. We provide primary health care, NCD follow-up and mental health services in Amriyat Al-Fallujah and Habbaniya Tourist City camps. Our primary healthcare clinic in Kilo 18 camp was closed when the number of IDPs in the camp reduced.

MSF completed its support of the Al-Fallujah Teaching Maternity Hospital in Anbar on 31 December 2017. The Emergency Room (ER) was rehabilitated, the sterilization of the Operating Theatre was upgraded, the capacity of the waste management was improved and we provided trainings for the nursing staff at the hospital.

In December, MSF opened an office in Ramadi city and will start a new mental health unit in Ramadi Teaching Hospital to provide specialized mental healthcare to patients with moderate and severe mental health disorders, including psychiatric care.

BABEL GOVERNORATE:

MSF opened a project at Ibn Saif Paediatric Hospital in Musayib in May 2017. MSF rehabilitated the hospital's warehouse and medical wards, and constructed a pharmacy in line with World Health Organisation standards. MSF also provided training for medical and paramedical personnel, established infection and waste management protocols, and donated more than 30 tonnes of medication and equipment. MSF also created a psychosocial unit for inpatients and the community. The project was handed over to the DoH in December 2017.

SALAHEDDIN GOVERNORATE

MSF has been running mobile clinics in the city of Tikrit and the surrounding areas in June 2016. The clinics offer outpatient and mental health consultations. In January 2017, MSF established a primary healthcare centre in Al Allam camp. As people return to their homes, the number of patients who attend our mobile clinics and healthcare centre have decreased. Thus, MSF is now conducting new assessments in the areas where people are returning to determine the healthcare needs and where MSF can provide support.

BAGHDAD GOVERNORATE:

MSF opened the Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Centre (BMRC) in August 2017. The project provides comprehensive care for post-operative patients including physiotherapy, nursing care, pain management and psychological support to civilian war victims. The BMRC includes a 20 bed in-patient departments for the first weeks of treatment, and an out-patient departments for the patients' follow up after discharge.



About Médecins Sans Frontières

MSF is an independent medical humanitarian movement that aims to deliver emergency medical care where it is needed most, and when it will save lives. MSF works in nearly 70 countries around the world. MSF offers neutral and impartial medical assistance regardless of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. To ensure its independence, MSF does not accept funding from any government or international agency for its programs in Iraq, relying solely on private donations from the general public around the world to carry out its work.

 **Twitter: @MSF_Iraq**

 **Facebook: @MSF.Iraq**

 **Website: www.msf.org**

 **E-mail: msf-iraq-com@msf.org
msf-iraq-media@msf.org**